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Working Group on Contemporary
Forms of Slavery
Twenty-fourth session
23 June - 2 July 1999
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

Note by the Secretariat

The present note contains the recommendations adopted by the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery at its fourth session, held in Geneva from 24 to 26 March 1999. These recommendations were approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General on 19 April 1999.

GE.99-42032 (E)

RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY AT ITS FOURTH SESSION

(Geneva, 24-26 March 1999)

1. At its fourth session, held in Geneva from 24 to 26 March 1999, the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery examined, during six meetings, information prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) concerning applications for new grants, the financial situation of the Fund, contributions paid by governments, NGOs and individuals and implementation by the Board and the secretariat of the Fund of the recommendations adopted in 1997 and approved by the Secretariat. The Board also met with several donors and interested NGOs.

Organization of the Board's sessions

2. In conformity with General Assembly resolution 46/122 of 17 December 1991, providing for a three-year renewable term, upon recommendation of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and in consultation with the current Chairman of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Mr. El Hadji Guissé, the Secretary-General decided to extend from 1 January 1999 to 31 December 2001 the mandate of four members of the Board, Swami Agnivesh (India), Mr. Cheikh Saad Bouh Kamara (Mauritania), Ms. Tatiana Matveeva (Russian Federation) and Mr. José de Souza Martins (Brazil), and to appoint a new member, Mr. Theo van Boven (Netherlands). All the members attended the session. Swami Agnivesh was elected Chairman for the term.

3. The Board had not been able to meet since March 1997 (see the note by the secretariat on the third session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1997/4)), but the members continued to implement their mandate, including by raising funds and attending the session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery at their own expense. As a principle, provided that enough money is available, the Board recommended that it should meet every year, if possible at the end of February, in order to be able to review the implementation of its previous recommendations on grants, adopt new recommendations on applications received and meet with donors. The Chairman or a member of the Board should be given an opportunity by the Bureau to deliver a brief speech to the Commission on Human Rights under the relevant agenda item in order to inform the Commission on its work, the financial situation of the Fund and to present the relevant note by the secretariat concerning the Fund. Considering the important increase in the number of applications received, the Board recommended that the next session should last four days, instead of three days as in 1999.

4. At the first meeting of each annual session, the secretariat of the Fund should continue to provide the Board with the figures available at OHCHR on the amount of money available for grants, contributions received and pledges made, as well as on the previous grants disbursed and the amount in United States dollars of new requests for grants received.

Recommendations for grants

5. Before the deadline of 15 January 1999, the Secretariat received 41 requests for travel grants amounting to US$ 127,547 and 24 requests for project grants amounting to US$ 777,374.

6. The project and travel grants recommended, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/122, will assist non-governmental organizations in a dozen countries in Africa, America, Asia and Europe. In accordance with the mandate of the Fund, the Board's recommendations focus on assisting representatives of NGOs from various regions, dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery, to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, as well as on extending, through established channels of assistance, humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery.

7. The Board recommended that US$ 13,505 be spent for travel grants (see annex I) and US$ 27,000 for project grants (see annex II) for a total of US$ 40,505, to be disbursed before its fifth session, scheduled to be held in February 2000. All travel grants have to be released before the next session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, to be held from 23 June to 2 July 1999.

Fund-raising

8. The Board is grateful to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mrs. Mary Robinson, for having sent letters to all States appealing for contributions to the Fund and would appreciate it very much if the High Commissioner could make another appeal in October 1999 in order to obtain a sufficient amount of money to enable it to fulfil its mandate in the year 2000. Taking into consideration that requests received in 1999 amounted to about US$ 900,000 (see paragraph 5 above), in the Board's view, in order to meet at least one third of requests expected to be received in the year 2000, the Fund would need an additional US$ 300,000.

9. The Board met with interested donors on 25 March 1999. The Board mandated its Chairman to present the financial situation of the Fund under the relevant agenda item of the Commission on Human Rights, as had been the case in 1997. The Bureau of the Commission invited the Chairman to deliver a statement. However, neither the Chairman nor another member of the Board were able to stay in Geneva until the Commission started considering the relevant agenda item.

10. The Board recommended various measures to raise funds, including establishing contacts with interested Governments and that Board members take similar initiatives to those taken by Mr. de Souza Martins to encourage contributions by an increased number of individuals, including students and other young people.

11. The Board would appreciate it if the Secretariat could envisage authorizing the cheapest mode of travel (for instance at excursion fare) for the members of the Board, in order to save the Fund's money.

Cooperation with the Working Group

12. OHCHR should invite, preferably in March each year, two months before the session of the Working Group, all Board members in a position to do so to participate at the twenty-fourth session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, in accordance with operative paragraph 8 of Sub-Commission resolution 1998/20.

13. OHCHR should continue to inform the Board about priority areas that the Working Group will identify, so that the Board can take them into account in considering applications for travel grants.

14. The Board expressed concern that the proposal that the Working Group should be discontinued, made by the Bureau of the Commission on Human Rights contained in document E/CN.4/1999/104, would affect the mandate of the Fund and the Board established in General Assembly resolution 46/122.

Recommendations of the Board during the inter-sessional period

15. Relevant information which would allow recommendations to be made during the inter-sessional period will be sent to the Chairman of the Board.

16. The Board encouraged the collaboration between the secretariat of the Fund and United Nations agencies such as UNHCR and UNDP, particularly in the field. The secretariat of the Fund should benefit from the effective cooperation of OHCHR and other United Nations offices in the field in matters relating to the transfer of grants, confidential transmission of information from and to project leaders and control of the use of grants disbursed.

ANNEX I

Recommendations on travel grants

UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery
Board of Trustees Fourth Session, 24-26 March 1999

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE BOARD ON TRAVEL GRANTS TO ATTEND THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

APPLI. NO.	ORGANIZATION	NAME OF REP.	AMOUNT RECOMMENDED AIR TICKET/ PER DIEM (5 DAYS)	REMARKS	ASPECTS OF CONTEMP. FORMS OF SLAVERY
No. 1	International Bureau for Children's rights	Ms. Josianne Gauthier	US$ 800/US$ 525 = 1,325	Canadian NGO	Sexual exploitation of children, incest and sexual abuse of children, pedophilia, slavery-like practices in armed conflicts
No. 7 No. 8	Project Mala	Mr. Rangpal David Mr. Satya Narayan	US$ 800/US$ 525 = 1,325 US$ 800/US$ 525 = 1,325	Indian NGO via an NGO in the United Kingdom	Working children in the carpet industry, relationship between work done in India and the perception of the West. Mr. Narayan will bring his testimony/ experience to the WG
No. 10	Tomorrow's Children NGO	Mr. Hector D. Gnonlonfin	US$ 1,135/US$ 525 = 1,660	Benin NGO	Trafficking in children from Benin to Gabon
No. 11	International Movement Against all forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR) Asia Committee	Ms. Nimalka Fernando	US$ 1,400/US$ 525 = 1,925	Sri Lankan NGO	Trafficking in women and children for the purpose of sexual exploitation in South Asia

No. 15	Casa Alianza Internacional	Mr. Bruce Harris	US$ 1,280/US$ 525 = 1,805	Costa Rican NGO	Trafficking in persons, organ trafficking, sale of children and child labour
No. 24	Mouvement pour l'abolition de la prostitution et de la pornographie (MAPP)	Ms. Elena Kabashnaya	US$ 700/US$ 525 = 1,225	Ukrainian representative of a French NGO	New forms of slavery, ways to get over difficulties, social aid to the victims of slavery
No. 25	Journalistes pour les droits des enfants et des femmes et l'environnement	Ms. Natasha Dokovska	US$ 550/US$ 525 = 1,075	An NGO in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Sexual exploitation of women
No. 28	Network North against Prostitution and Violence	Ms. Trude Haaland	US$ 800/US$ 525 = 1,325	Norwegian NGO	Prostitution and trafficking in the Barents region. Situation in different countries and work done
No. 29	Comité contre l'esclavage moderne (CCEM)	Ms. Dominique Torres	US$ 200/US$ 315 = 515	French NGO	The plight of migrant domestic workers and children in forced domestic labour in France
10 grants			**TOTAL** 13,505		

ANNEX II

Recommendations on project grants

- Project grant No. 4 of US$ 7,000 for Project Mala, an Indian NGO, via an NGO in the United Kingdom to be released promptly; should be used for direct assistance to children victims of exploitation in the carpet industry in India. Not for travel.

- Project grant No. 14 of US$ 5,000 for Terre des Hommes, a Haitian NGO via an NGO in Switzerland; reintegration of "restaveks" (child domestic workers) to their families; grant to be released promptly.

- Project grant No. 21 of US$ 5,000 for the Association nationale des éducateurs sociaux "Anes-Congo" in the Democratic Republic of Congo; for judicial assistance and economic reinsertion of sexually and economically exploited children: to be paid in two instalments of US$ 2,500 each upon receipt of satisfactory narrative and financial reports on the use of the first instalment.

- Project grant No. 22 of US$ 5,000 for WAO-Afrique/Togo, a Togolese NGO; rehabilitation of child domestic workers: in two instalments of US$ 2,500 each, the second to be released upon receipt of satisfactory narrative and financial reports on the use of the first one. The field presence of OHCHR or another United Nations organization on site should act as the established channel of assistance and, if possible, submit an evaluation report on the use of the first instalment in conformity with the mandate of the Fund.

- Project grant No. 24 of US$ 5,000 in two instalments of US$ 2,500 each, for the Consulting Center for Constitutional Rights and Justice C3RJ, a Nigerian NGO, to contribute to direct humanitarian and legal assistance to repatriated children subjected to trafficking. The release of the first instalment is subject to positive appreciation on the first phase of the project by a United Nations agency such as UNICEF or UNDP, acting as an established channel of assistance or by the Centre for Advance Social Science (CASS). The grant should be paid preferably through UNDP Nigeria or another United Nations agency in the field. The release of the second instalment is conditional to receipt of satisfactory narrative and financial reports on the use of the first one.

Total for project grants recommended: US$ 27,000.